

Competition jury selects six finalists

by Mary Beth Thompson
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They came. They saw. They chose.

The Pentagon Memorial Competition jury met in Washington, D.C., Sept. 30 to Oct. 2 to select six finalists from 1,126 entries that met the competition requirements for Stage One of the competition.

The finalists are: Entry #1276 from Shane Williamson of Toronto, Ontario; Entry #1717 from Julie Beckman and Keith Kaseman of New York, N.Y.; Entry #2248 from Jean Koeppel and Tom Kowalski of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Entry #2857 from Mason Wickham and Edwin Zawadski of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Entry #4099 from Jacky Bowring of Canterbury, New Zealand, and Peter England, Richard Weller and Vladimir Sitta of Australia; and Entry #4163 from Michael Meredith of Clifton Park, N.Y.

Jurors represented three key groups: the family members of those who died as a result of the 9-11 Pentagon attack, the military community and the artistic community.

“Working with such a diverse group of jurors was incredibly inspiring and necessary,” said Wendy Chamberlain—a graphic artist and family member who served on the jury. “I don’t think an appropriate memorial could have been chosen without this diversity.”



Jurors are sworn in before the West facade of the Pentagon. From left: Melvin Laird, Mary Miss, Harold Brown, Carolyn Shelton, Terry Riley, Karen Van Lengen, Jim Laychak, Sheila Levrant de Bretteville, Roger Martin, Wendy Chamberlain, Gregg Pasquarelli and Walter Hood.
Photo by F.T. Eyre, USACE

Jury goes to work

The jury began its duties with a visit to the Pentagon memorial site near the initial impact area. With right hands raised and hardhats placed jauntily on heads, they were sworn in as they stood next to the repaired west façade of the Pentagon. Many jurors were veterans of similar panels that have judged artistic competitions, but several said the swearing-in ceremony was a new experience, reinforcing the importance of the task.

“To participate in the process of selecting a memorial for the Sept. 11, 2001, tragedy is an immense honor and responsibility,” said Roger Martin, a landscape architect and professor emeritus from the University of Minnesota,

who summed up the feelings expressed by many jury members.

The group next moved to the National Building Museum, where they listened to initial instructions from the project team. Two goals were set before them: a great design and one that satisfies the families.

The members selected as chair Terry Riley, chief curator of architecture and design at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Other jurors include former Secretary of Defense Harold Brown, artist Sheila Levrant de Bretteville of Yale, landscape architect Walter Hood of the University of California at Berkeley, former Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird, artist Mary Miss,



architect Gregg Pasquarelli, Carolyn Shelton, wife of the former Joint Chiefs Chair H. Hugh Shelton, and University of Virginia Architecture Dean Karen Van Lengen. Family member Jim Laychak served as alternate and participated in the discussions.

They made their way individually through eight rooms and galleries, looking at each of the 30- by 40-inch entry boards. Most had worn suits that first day. By afternoon, the jackets were off and the sleeves rolled up.

"It was a little mind-boggling when we got there Monday morning and found that there were 1,200 applications," Shelton said.

Pensively, thoughtfully, with notebooks and pens in hand, they stood before the entry boards, which carried only registration numbers on the reverse as identification. They weighed, judged and evaluated each entry based on the competition criteria and their personal expertise and perspectives. Each juror placed yellow tags on the boards he or she wanted to look at more carefully and discuss with the group.

"It's a very challenging type of design problem for it needs to represent the sadness of the event and yet also honor the collective and individual spirit of our culture," Van Lengen said.

Families, loved ones offer comments

During that first day, each juror also spent time reading the comments provided by family members and loved ones of those who died in the 9-11 attack on the Pentagon. The families had been invited to a private exhibit of the entries the evening before the jury met, and were asked to write their thoughts.

Many family members requested that the memorial include the names of those who were killed. There were also several requests that there be no airplanes, bodies, flames or other graphic depictions. The families and loved ones seem to want to look forward rather than back.

"...this place should be a place from which to gain strength, garner hope, and learn about those lost," another anonymous visitor noted.

"It should be somewhere you can go and rest and think. A peaceful place, yet awe-inspiring," David Spivock wrote. "It should be quietly magnificent."

Pasquarelli noted how valuable it was to have family members on the jury. Making this selection will



Project consultant Jeff Lee hangs one of the 1,126 entry boards that were exhibited for the family members at the initial showing.

Photo by Mary Beth Thompson



Visitors study an entry board during the exhibit for family members and loved ones on Sept. 29.

Photo By F.T. Eyre, USACE





Jury members (from left) Terry Riley, Mary Miss, Melvin Laird and Roger Martin discuss the concepts presented on an entry board during the Stage One judging. Photo by F.T. Eyre, USACE

be important and significant to the way the country has an opportunity to mourn the loss, he said.

“How wonderfully overwhelming to have so many submissions,” Karen Maude wrote.

“Some of the designs are amazing,” an anonymous exhibit viewer commented, “they really, really transport you to a different place.”

Careful, thoughtful evaluating

By mid-afternoon, the jury members had selected around 10 percent of the boards to evaluate more closely as a group. The chosen boards were gathered in one room, where one by one, the jury discussed and evaluated them.

“Who would like to speak to this one?” Riley asked over and over. Jurors responded, describing why elements of the concepts appealed to them. They then reduced the quantity in half. A second similar round of examination reduced the group to 45 by the end of the day.

The second day began with each juror individually studying the 45 boards. Once again, they stood before each board, leaning in, moving back, carefully reading the text and studying the memorial idea presented.

Van Lengen slowly waved a pen through the air as she digested the material on one board. Pasquerelli stood with his legs crossed before another, while Laychak stood with feet apart and his hands behind his back. Martin pondered with notebook and pen in

hand. The quiet concentration was almost a physical presence.

“One of the things I was most impressed by was the range of ideas and the pouring in of different concepts,” said Hood. “People really thought carefully about what it meant and what it will mean in the future to have lost so many people during this act of terror.”

Going gets even tougher

By afternoon, the jury had come together as a group again and reduced the boards to 26. The jury talked about water, slopes, stone, berms, benches and the use of names as they thrashed out pros and cons. Then there were 10.

The third day’s task was both simple and complex: choose the finalists from those 10. The jury had originally aimed for five with one alternate in accordance with the competition program, which called for “approximately five finalists.” However, that mission proved daunting.

The jury eventually reduced the number to six and worked on which would be the alternate, but that became a tough choice.

Chamberlain spoke about the families’ wishes, and Laychak read the family statement from the competition program. These had a focusing impact on the jurors. With the blessing of Defense Department personnel, they selected all six as finalists and no alternate.



Project manager Carol Anderson-Austra discusses site plans with jurors during a memorial site tour before jury deliberations begin.

Photo by F.T. Eyre, USACE





Jurors Walter Hood, Wendy Chamberlain and Gregg Pasquarelli listen to the discussion among the jury panel concerning an entry.

Photo by F.T. Eyre, USACE

"I just think that there were so many fine boards to be considered that it was very difficult to make a final decision, but I think that the six we picked were outstanding."

-Melvin Laird



One juror uses a checklist system in his evaluation of entry boards during Stage One judging.

Photo by F.T. Eyre, USACE



On the second day, jurors individually study about 45 entries culled out from the initial 1,126.

Photo by F.T. Eyre, USACE





Competition advisors Reed Kroloff and Mark Robbins help keep the proceedings on track throughout the jury meetings. Photo By F.T. Eyre, USACE



Juror Carolyn Shelton evaluates one of the entries. Photo by F.T. Eyre, USACE



All the jurors took time to read the comment books from the private exhibit for family members and loved ones. Photo By F.T. Eyre, USACE

“I just think that there were so many fine boards to be considered that it was very difficult to make a final decision, but I think that the six we picked were outstanding,” Laird said.

Carol Anderson-Austra, project manager, notified the finalists by phone, and the Defense Department announced them at the Pentagon Oct. 17. The remaining six competitors are now developing their ideas for Stage Two. Jurors will meet again, probably after the first of the year, to select the winning concept.

“I feel that all the jurors truly looked at the higher ethical notion of what this was and what this means to the country,” Pasquarelli said. “It was not about stylistic selections; it was not about power plays or schools of thought, but really about the thing that is common among all of us, and that is the love of freedom and the ability to make a place where we can go to remember how important that is.”



Finalists come to Washington

by Mary Beth Thompson
Public Affairs Office

Just as Sept. 11, 2001, was a pivotal date in the nation's history, Oct. 25, 2002, was a turning point in the Pentagon Memorial project.

On that Friday, the finalists in the competition to select a memorial concept visited the future memorial's location for the first time. Family members, designers and team members who had been only names, phone numbers and email addresses to one another met face to face. They discussed the six proposals and the project in depth, asked and answered questions, and exchanged key information. By the end of that day, the competition's Stage One was complete, and Stage Two was well launched.

"We started early, worked collaboratively, stayed late and accomplished a lot," said project manager Carol Anderson-Austra. "The process of visiting the site and sharing information was very productive and made the activities feel like an alignment of planets."

Each of the Stage Two competitors sent a representative to the Oct. 25 information session. The names and submission boards of these finalists—two individuals and four teams—had been made public Oct. 17. Each team will receive \$20,000 to help defray the costs of further developing their ideas and re-submitting them in December for the second round of judging.

The two individual competitors—Shane Williamson and Michael Meredith, who coincidentally both teach at the University of



Jean Koeppel, one of the entrants who made it into the final stage, explains her ideas to the family members.

Photo by F.T. Eyre, USACE

Toronto—were there. Three of the four teams are pairs of designers: Julie Beckman and Keith Kaseman of New York; Jean Koeppel and Tom Kowalski of Brooklyn, N.Y.; and Mason Wickman and Edwin Zawadzki also of Brooklyn. All six attended the information session. Jacky Bowring of Canterbury, New Zealand, represented the sixth team, a group from New Zealand and Australia.

The information session brought together these finalists with relatives of those who were killed, Pentagon representatives, technical experts, advisors and other team members.

"Connections were made on many levels," Anderson-Austra said. "Everyone emerged with clearer information on where we go from here."

The day began with a trip to the Pentagon so the finalists could see the memorial site and have questions answered. Jerry Shiplett, Washington Headquarters Services,

greeted the group. The Pentagon Renovation project's Brett Eaton gave a brief explanation of the attack, the damage and the ongoing reconstruction work. Anderson-Austra guided the group around and described the memorial site.

The competitors also heard from the Pentagon's John Pugrud about security matters. Pentagon Renovation contractor Greg Henion explained the plans for a new truck route that will be constructed near the outer perimeter of the memorial.

The group reconvened at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C., where the finalists met the others who would participate in the information session. These included nine members of the Family Steering Committee, which represents family members of all those killed on the plane and in the Pentagon.

"My husband and I raised our children to believe one person can make a difference. You are making





Shane Williamson, a finalist, explains his ideas and motivation behind his projected memorial.

Photo by F.T. Eyre, USACE

a difference,” family member Elaine Donovan told the finalists on behalf of the committee. No matter which of these six designs is chosen, she said, the families will be very honored to see it built.

The finalists came forward and used their 30- by 40-inch submission boards to individually present and describe their memorial concepts. They explained how they had developed their ideas, and in what ways they planned to further refine the concept and improve it.

Consultant Jeff Lee, a landscape architect, said that each of the six finalists’ schemes reflects a distinctive “big idea.”

“These ideas, presented at this level, are like flower buds waiting to open. Our job is to help each one of them open up to their full individual beauty,” Lee said.

During the presentations, the competitors heard comments and responded to questions from the gathering.

“We are glad to have had the

chance to meet the families and hear their questions, concerns and ideas,” Zawadzki, a finalist, said. “They were very gracious and generous to us all.”

Family Steering Committee members asked exacting questions and offered clear-cut observations. Donovan said she wanted to look the finalists in the eye and see what kind of people they were. She was happy with what she saw, she said.

“It was excellent to be able to ask questions and express my ideas...and have them addressed on the spot,” committee member Rosemary Dillard said.

“Meeting the finalists was invaluable,” Lisa Dolan, another committee member, said. “I am confident the design chosen will honor the memories of the 184 men, women and children killed on Sept. 11.”

Later in the day, the project team members, finalists and consultants pulled chairs into a circle and conferred on Stage Two. They

discussed subjects such as submission formats and requirements, payment of stipends, contracting alternatives and legal issues.

The challenge and the goal, Anderson-Austra said at the start of this session, are to have a high quality project and maintain the artist’s vision while working with the procurement tools that are available.

“It was an important day for all of us, and also hugely and quietly successful,” she said. The competitors agreed.

“We received a great deal of valuable input that we’ll most certainly use in developing our concept,” Koeppel said. “It makes a big difference to meet everyone face-to-face.”

“I think all of the finalists really enjoyed getting together, too,” Bowring said. “It is nice to know now that whoever wins it will be one of this group of switched-on people.”

“It was very powerful for me, and it really does give a whole new scale to the event,” Meredith said. “I left realizing that what I’m doing can really affect people’s lives, which is something you sometimes forget when working at your computer late at night.”

Please note

The designs of the six finalists can be viewed on either of the following websites:

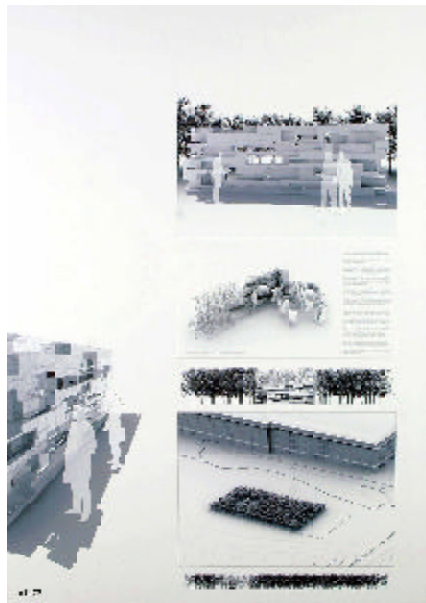
[http://
pentagonmemorial.nab.usace.army.mil](http://pentagonmemorial.nab.usace.army.mil)
or
[http://
memorialcompetition.pentagon.mil](http://memorialcompetition.pentagon.mil)

For further information about this project, call 410-962-2809.

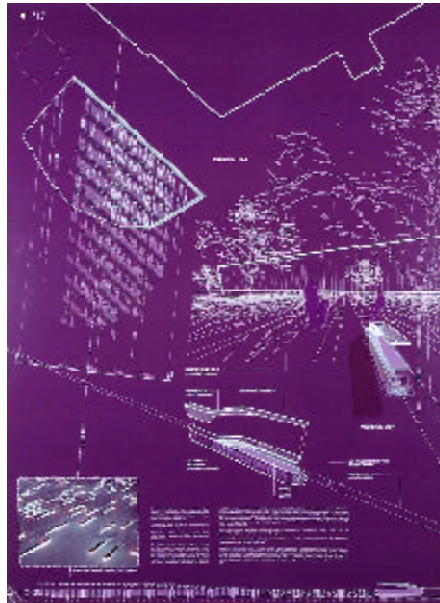


Pentagon Memorial Competition

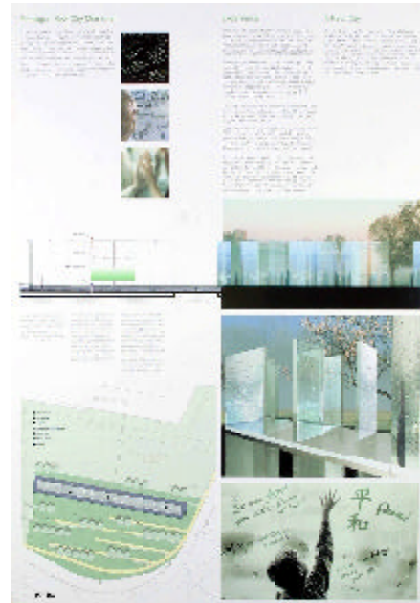
Six finalists selected in first judging



Entry #1276, Shane Williamson, Toronto Ontario, Individual Entrant



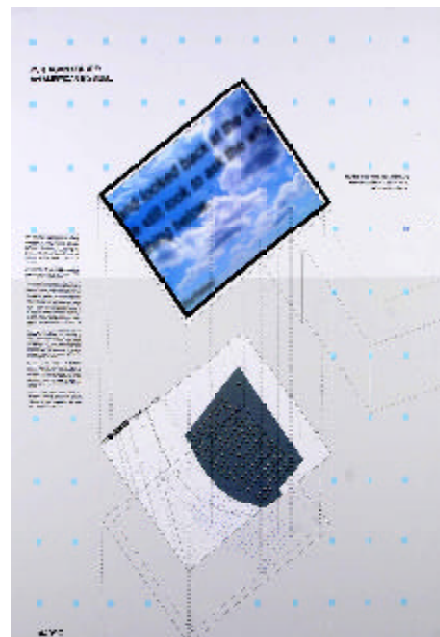
Entry #1717, Julie Beckman, New York, N.Y., Team member: Keith Kaseman



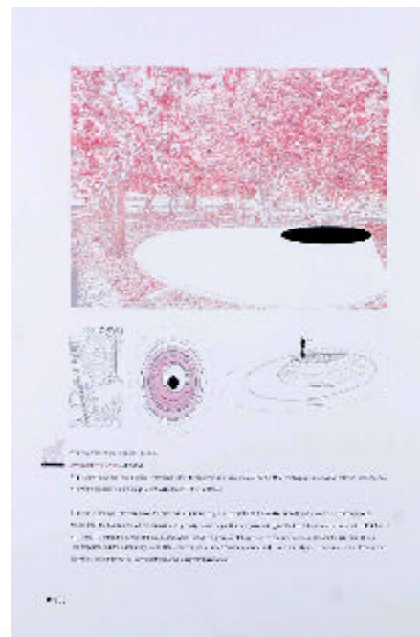
Entry #2248, Jean Koeppel, Brooklyn, N.Y., Team member: Tom Kowalski



Entry #2857, Mason Wickham, Brooklyn, N.Y., Team member: Edwin Zawadzki



Entry #4099, Jacky Bowring, Canterbury, New Zealand, Team members: Peter England, Richard Weller and Vladimir Sitta



Entry #4163, Michael Meredith, Clifton Park, N.Y., Individual Entrant

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